# NYC Anarchist Black Cross

**U.S. Political Prisoner and Prisoner of War Listing**

Edition 13.8, November 2020

ALL CONTENT IN THIS EDITION IS UP-TO-DATE
TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 2020.

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## BLACK/NEW AFRIKAN LIBERATION

Smart Communications/PA DOC
**Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335**
SCI Mahanoy
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733

*Birthday: April 24*
Mumia is an award winning journalist and was one of the founders of the Black Panther Party chapter in Philadelphia, PA. He has struggled for justice and human rights for people of color since he was at least 14 years old ~ the age when he joined the Party. In December of 1982, Mumia, who moonlighted by driving a taxi, happened upon police who were beating his brother. During the melee, a police officer was shot and killed. Despite the fact that many people saw someone else shoot and then runaway from the scene, Mumia, in what could only be called a kangaroo court, was convicted and sentenced to death. During the summer of 1995, a death warrant was signed by Governor Tom Ridge, which sparked one of the most effective organizing efforts in defense of a political prisoner ever. Since that time, Mumia has had his death sentence overturned, but still has a life sentence with no opportunity for parole. *More information: freemumia.com*

**Sundiata Acoli* #39794-066**
FCI Cumberland
Post Office Box 1000
Cumberland, Maryland 21501
**Address envelope to Clark Squire*

*Birthday: January 14*
A New York Black Panther, he endured two years of prison awaiting trial for the Panther 21 Conspiracy Case. He and his comrades were eventually acquitted on all the bogus charges.

The case was historic and a classic example of police and government attempting to neutralize organizations by incarcerating their leadership. As a result of this political attack and because of the immense pressure and surveillance from the FBI and local police Sundiata, like many other Panther leaders went “underground”. On May 2, 1973, Sundiata Acoli, Assata Shakur and Zayd Shakur were ambushed and attacked by state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. Assata was wounded and Zayd was killed. During the gun battle a state trooper was shot and killed in self defense. Sundiata was tried in

an environment of mass hysteria and convicted, although there was no credible evidence that he killed the trooper or had been involved in the shooting. He was sentenced to thirty years. Sundiata was ordered released on parole by a state appeals court in New Jersey in September 2014 when the court ruled the parole board had "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" when it previously denied him parole. The State of New Jersey has appealed the decision and won in October 2018. *More information: sundiataacoli.org*

**Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin #99974-555**
USP Tucson
Post Office Box 24550
Tucson, Arizona 85734

*Birthday: October 4*
Formerly known as H. Rap Brown, the Imam came to prominence in the 1960s as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Justice Minister of the Black Panther Party. He is perhaps most famous for his proclamation during that period that "violence is as American as cherry pie", as well as once stating that "If America don't come around, we're gonna burn it down." He is currently serving a life sentence for homicide.

Smart Communications/PA DOC
**Joe-Joe Bowen* #AM4272**
SCI Fayette
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733
**Address envelope to Joseph Bowen.*

*Birthday: January 15*
Joseph "Joe-Joe" Bowen is one of the many all-but-forgotten frontline soldiers in the liberation struggle. A native of Philadelphia, Joe-Joe was a young member of the "30th and Norris" street gang before his incarceration politicized him. Released in 1971, his outside activism was cut short a week following his release when Joe-Joe was confronted by an officer of the notoriously brutal Philadelphia police department. The police officer was killed in the confrontation, and Bowen fled. After his capture and incarceration, Bowen became a Black Liberation Army combatant, defiant to authorities at every turn. In 1973, Joe-Joe and Philadelphia Five prisoner Fred "Muhammad" Burton assassinated Holmesberg prison's warden and deputy warden as well as wounded the guard commander in retaliation for intense repression against Muslim prisoners in the facility.

In 1981, Bowen led a six-day standoff with authorities when he and six other captives took 39 hostages at Graterford Prison as a freedom attempt and protest of the prison conditions. Much of his time in prison has been spent in and out of control units, solitary confinement, and other means of isolating Joe-Joe from the general prison population. These include three trips to Marion Penitentiary, where he met Sundiata Acoli and other BLA members. He is legendary to many prisoners as a revolutionary. “I used to teach the brothers how to turn their rage into energy and understand their situations,” Bowen told the Philadelphia Inquirer in 1981. “I don’t threaten anybody. I don’t talk to pigs. I don’t drink anything I can’t see through and I don’t eat anything off a tray. When the time comes, I’ll be ready.”

**Veronza Bowers, Jr. #35316-136**
FCI Butner Medium II
Post Office Box 1500
Butner, North Carolina 27509

*Birthday: February 4*
Veronza was a member of the Black Panther Party, convicted in the murder of a U.S. Park Ranger on the word of two government informants, both of whom received reduced sentences for other crimes by Federal prosecutors. There were no eye-witnesses and no evidence independent of the informants to link him to the crime. At trial, Veronza offered alibi testimony, not credited by the jury. Nor was testimony of two relatives of the informants who insisted that they were lying. The informants had all charges against them in this case dropped and one was given $10,000 by the government according to the prosecutor’s post-sentencing report. Veronza has consistently proclaimed his innocence of the crime he never committed, even at the expense of having his appeals for parole denied for which an admission of guilt and contrition is virtually required. *More information: veronza.org*

Smart Communications/PA DOC
**Muhammad Burton* AF3896**
SCI Somerset
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733
**Address envelope to Fred Burton.*

*Birthday: December 15*
Frederick Burton is an innocent man who has diligently attempted to prove his innocence to the courts for 47 years. Prior to his

inprisonment, Fred worked for a phone company, was a well respected member of his community and his wife was preparing to have twins. In 1970, Fred was accused and then convicted of participating in the planning of the murder of Philadelphia police officers. While the alleged plan was to blow up a police station, instead a police officer was shot and killed by alleged members of a radical group called “the Revolutionaries.”

**Chip Fitzgerald* #B-27527**
California State Prison - LAC
Post Office Box 4490
B-4-150
Lancaster, California 93539
**Address envelope to Romaine Fitzgerald.*

*Birthday: April 11*
Romaine “Chip” Fitzgerald, born and raised in Compton, California, joined the Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party in early 1969 as a teenager who had just been released from the California Youth Authority. In September of that year, as a dedicated member of the Party, Chip was arrested in connection with a police shoot-out and tried for assault on police and related charges, including the murder of a security guard. He was sentenced to death. *More information: freedom4chip.org*

**Cinque Magee* #A92051**
T 115
California Medical Facility
Post Office Box 2000
Vacaville, California 95696
**Address envelope to Ruchell Magee.*

*Birthday: March 17*
Commonly regarded as the longest held political prisoner in the U.S., Ruchell Magee has been imprisoned since 1963. He was politicized in prison and participated in the August 7, 1970 Marin County Courthouse Rebellion— the attempted liberation of political prisoner George Jackson and the Soledad Brothers by Jackson’s younger brother Jonathan. Magee was seriously injured in the incident and subsequently pleaded guilty to aggravated kidnapping. He was sentenced in 1975 to life in prison and has been denied parole numerous times.

**Ed Poindexter #27767**
Nebraska State Penitentiary
Post Office Box 22500
Lincoln, Nebraska 68542
*Birthday: November 1*

Ed Poindexter is one of the Nebraska 2, charged and convicted of the 1970 Omaha, Nebraska cop. The cop died when a suitcase containing dynamite exploded in a North Omaha home. Another cop was also injured in the explosion. Poindexter was a member of the Black Panther Party, and his case was, and continues to be, controversial. The Omaha Police withheld exculpatory evidence at trial. The two men had been targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program), which operated against and infiltrated anti-war and Civil Rights groups, including the Omaha Black Panthers. The US section of Amnesty International recognizes Poindexter as a political prisoner. The state's parole board has recommended the men for release, but political leaders have not acted on these recommendations. *More information: bit.do/Nebraska2*

**Ronald Reed #219531**
Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes
7525 Fourth Avenue
Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55014

*Birthday: August 31*
Ronald Reed, a former member of the Black United Front, was convicted of the 1970 shooting of a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first degree-murder. He is serving Life in prison.

Reed is a former 60s civil rights activist. In 1969, Reed was also among the students at St. Paul Central High School who demanded black history courses and organized actions against racist teachers. He was also instrumental in helping to integrate college campuses in Minnesota. During this period, Reed began to look toward revolutionary theory and began to engage in political street theater with other young black revolutionaries in the city of St. Paul. *More information: bit.do/RonaldReed*

**Kojo Bomani Sababu* #39384-066**
USP Canaan
Smart Communications
Post Office Box 30
Pinellas Park, Florida 33781
**Address envelope to Grailing Brown.*

*Birthday: May 27*
Kojo Bomani Sababu is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War, currently serving a 55 year sentence for actions with the Black Liberation Army and attempted prison escape with Puerto Rican Independista Oscar López Rivera. Sababu was convicted of one count of conspiracy for an alleged escape plan that included the use of rockets, hand grenades, and a helicopter.

**Kamau Sadiki* #0001150688**
Augusta State Medical Prison
3001 Gordon Highway
Grovetown, Georgia 30813
**Address envelope to Freddie Hilton.*

*Birthday: February 19*
Kamau Sadiki is a former member of the Black Panther Party and was convicted of a 30-year old murder case of a Fulton County Police Officer found shot to death in his car outside a service station. *More information: bit.do/KamauSadiki*

**Dr. Mutulu Shakur #83205-012**
FMC Lexington
Post Office Box 14500
Lexington, Kentucky 40512

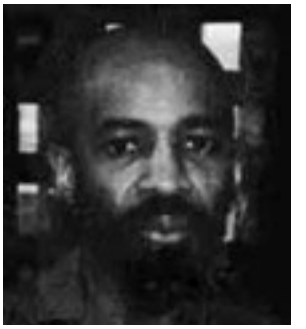
*Birthday: August 8*
In 1987 Dr. Shakur was sentenced to 60 years imprisonment for his role in the Black Liberation Movement. In March 1982, Dr. Shakur and 10 others were indicted by a federal grand jury under a set of U.S. conspiracy laws called Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) laws. These conspiracy laws were ostensibly developed to aid the government in its prosecution of organized crime figures; however, they have been used with varying degrees of success against revolutionary organizations. Dr. Shakur was charged with conspiracy and participation in the Black Liberation Army, a group that carried out actual and attempted expropriations from several banks. Eight incidents were alleged to have

occurred between December 1976 to October 1981. In addition, he was charged with participation in the 1979 prison escape of Assata Shakur, who is now in exile in Cuba.

After five years underground, Dr. Shakur was arrested on February 12, 1986.

While he was on the street, Dr. Shakur challenged the use of methadone as a tool of recovery for addicts. He believed in natural remedies instead and, based on those beliefs, founded the Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America. Many people credit Shakur with saving their lives. Dr. Shakur has worked to free political prisoners and to expose government abuses against political organizers. While in prison, he has struggled to create peace between rival gangs. *More information: mutulushakur.com*

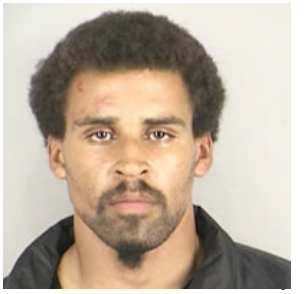
Smart Communications/PA DOC
**Russell Maroon Shoatz #AF3855**
SCI Dallas
Post Office Box 33028
St Petersburg, Florida 33733



*Birthday: August 23*
A dedicated community activist and founding member of the Philadelphia based organization Black Unity Council, which eventually merged with the Black Panther Party (1969). In 1970, along with 5 others, Maroon was accused of attacking a police station, which resulted in an officer being killed. This attack was said to have been carried out in response to the rampant police brutality in the Black community. For 18 months Maroon functioned underground as a soldier in the Black Liberation Army. In 1972 he was captured. Twice he escaped—once in 1977 and again 1980, but both times he was recaptured and today he is held in Pennsylvania where he is serving multiple life sentences. *More information: russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com*

## ANARCHIST MOVEMENTS

**Casey Brezik #1154765**
Western Missouri Correctional Center
609 East Pence Road
Cameron, Missouri 64429



*Birthday: December 30*
In 2010, anarchist Casey Brezik tried to assassinate the governor of Missouri. In June of 2013, he was convicted and sentenced to

a dozen years on each of three counts – assault and two armed criminal action charges – and seven years on a second count of assault. All sentences will concurrently run. *More information: supportcasey.org*

**Bill Dunne #10916-086**
FCI Victorville Medium I
Post Office Box 3725
Adelanto, California 92301

*Birthday: August 3*
Bill Dunne is an anti-authoritarian sentenced to 90 years for the attempted liberation of comrades from Seattle's King County Jail in 1979 and for attempting to break himself out of Leavenworth Penitentiary in 1983. Bill was charged with possession of an automatic weapon, auto theft, and aiding & abetting the escape. Charges further alleged the operation was financed by bank expropriations and facilitated by illegal acquisition of weapons and explosives.

Bill and his codefendant, Larry Giddings, were accused by police of being "members of a small, heavily armed group of revolutionaries," associated with the Wellspring Communion. Dunne has made the rounds of the federal prison system–including a stint at the infamous Control Unit in Marion, Illinois, where he assisted prisoners with political & academic education. Bill also organizes solidarity runs in conjunction with the Anarchist Black Cross Federation's Running Down the Walls and has edited & written for *4 Struggle* magazine. Bill went before the parole board in the winter 2014, was rejected and given a 15 year 'hit' (meaning he cannot go back to the board for that time period).

**Gage Halupowski #21894460**
Snake River Correctional Institution
777 Stanton Boulevard
Ontario, Oregon 97914-8335

*Birthday: July 1*
Gage Halupowski was arrested along with two other protesters in the wake of clashes in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square, later indicted on four criminal charges, including second-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon, attempted assault of a public safety officer, and interfering with a peace officer. In November 2019, Gage was convicted and sentenced to six years in state prison.
**Eric King #27090-045**

FCI Englewood
9595 West Quincy Avenue
Littleton, Colorado 80123

*Birthday: August 2*
Eric King, a vegan anarchist, was arrested and charged with an attempted firebombing of a government official's office in Kansas City, Missouri in September 2014. Eric was charged with throwing a hammer through a window of the building, followed by two lit Molotov cocktails. In March of 2016, he accepted a non-cooperating plea agreement to one count of using "explosive materials to commit arson of property used in or affecting interstate commerce." *More info: supportericking.org*

**Marie (Marius) Mason #04672-061**
FCI Danbury
Route 37
Danbury, Connecticut 06811
**Address card/letter to Marius Mason.*

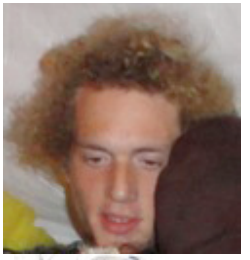
*Birthday: January 26*
Marius Mason is a revolutionary anarchist, avid community gardener,musician, parent of two, writer, Earth First! Organizer, IWW member, and former volunteer for a free herbal healthcare collective. He was an extended care assistant at a small Cincinnati school when arrested on March 10, 2008 by federal agents. Marius was convicted of involvement with a December, 1999 arson at a Michigan State University office in which GMO research was being conducted and a January, 2000 arson of logging equipment in Mesick, Michigan. Both arsons were claimed by the Earth Liberation Front. *More information: supportmariusmason.org*

## Cleveland Four

The Cleveland 4 were four Occupy Cleveland activists, Brandon, Connor, Doug and "Skelly." The four were arrested on April 30th, 2012 and accused of plotting a series of bombings, including that of an area bridge. The reality is that the FBI, working with an informant, created the scheme, produced the explosives, and coerced these four into participating. Connor, Doug, and Brandon took non cooperating plea deals and pleaded guilty to all charges. The judge applied a "terrorist enhancement" charge to each of them. Doug is serving 11.5 years, Brandon 9 years 9 months, and Connor 8 years 1 month.

Skelly took his case to trial acting as his own lawyer. He was found guilty on all counts by his jury and sentenced to 10 years. The four have appealed their cases and lost. In July, 2019 Connor Stevens was released from prison and is serving lifetime supervised release.

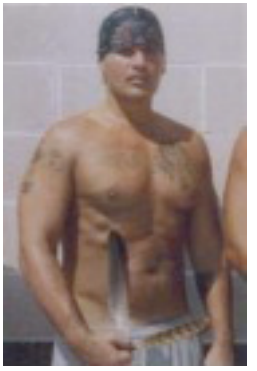
*As a collective, NYC Anarchist Black Cross has decided to withdraw support for Brandon Baxter of the Cleveland 4. It has come to our attention that Brandon has been problematic, abusive, and manipulative to women who have offered him support, material or emotional. Brandon has not been receptive to concerns about this behavior. We are in solidarity with those who have been impacted by Brandon's toxic behavior and feel it is imperative to discontinue support so as to not facilitate any further harm to women. For these reasons, we no longer feel comfortable supporting or encouraging others to do so. More information: cleveland4solidarity.org*



**Skelly* #57976-060**
USP McCreary
Post Office Box 3000
Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635
**Address envelope to Joshua Stafford.*
*Birthday: October 3*

**Douglas Wright #57973-060**
USP Florence - High
Post Office Box 7000
Florence, Colorado 81226
*Birthday: May 31*

## INDIGENOUS RESISTANCE



**Oso Blanco* #07909-051**
USP Victorville
Post Office Box 3900
Adelanto, California 92301
**Address envelope to Byron Chubbuck.*

*Birthday: February 26*
Indigenous rights activist serving 55 years for bank robbery, aggravated assault on the FBI, escape and firearms charges. A confidential informant reported that Oso was robbing banks in order to

acquire funds to support the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico throughout 1998-99. *More information: freeosoblanco.blogspot.com*

**Leonard Peltier #89637-132**
USP Coleman I
Post Office Box 1033
Coleman, Florida 33521

*Birthday: September 12*
Leonard Peltier is a Native American political prisoner and American Indian Movement (AIM) activist, serving two consecutive life sentences for a crime he was framed for— the 1975 killing of two FBI agents on the Oglala Sioux reservation. After the acquittal of his codefendants and being extradited form Canada under false pretenses, Peltier was convicted by an all white jury in a hostile town. Peltier has appealed his sentence many times and has sued the FBI for withholding thousands of pages of important legal documents from FOIA requests. He is an accomplished painter and writer, having published his memoir, *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance*, in 1999. Peltier has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize multiple times. His defense campaign continues to advocate for executive clemency and his transfer close to home. *More information: whoisleonardpeltier.info*

## Standing Rock 6

The Standing Rock 6 are arrestees facing felony charges stemming from arrests on October 27, 2016 at ceremonial resistance camps at Standing Rock. These camps were convened in North Dakota by Native peoples and their allies who gathered there to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Collectively, they are referred to as water protectors. These seven arrestees are out of the 800-some water protectors arrested, many the result of widespread police sweeps at demonstrations like October 22 with scant or no evidence to link most individuals to any crime. In July, 2019 and September, 2020 (respectively) Little Feather and Red Fawn were released to halfway houses. *More information at waterprotectorlegal.org freerattlernodapl.com*

**Rattler* #06280-073**
FCI Sandstone
Post Office Box 1000
Sandstone, Minnesota 55072
**Address envelope to Michael Markus*
*Birthday: February 2*

## HACKS/INFORMATION LEAKS

**Reality Winner #22056-021**
FMC Carswell
Post Office Box 27137
Fort Worth, Texas 76127

*Birthday: December 4*
Reality Leigh Winner is a whistleblower who was jailed without bail since June 3, 2017 for helping expose Russian hacking efforts leading up to the 2016 US presidential election. Charged under the Espionage Act for sending a classified document to the media, she was sentenced to five years in federal prison. *More information: standwithreality.org*

## GREEN SCARE/EARTH LIBERATION/ANIMAL LIBERATION

**Joseph Dibee #812133**
Multnomah County Jail
11540 NE Inverness Drive
Portland, Oregon 97220

*Birthday: November 10th*
Operation Backfire defendant and target of the Green Scare, Joseph Dibee was arrested as part of a joint United States and Cuba collaboration, charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and destruction of an energy facility. **REMEMBER**: Joseph is pre-trial so do not write about his case or much of anything short of offering support.

## OTHER NATIONAL LIBERATION

**David Gilbert #83-A-6158**
Shawangunk Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 700
Wallkill, New York 12589

*Birthday: October 6*
David Gilbert, a longtime anti-racist and anti-imperialist, first became active in the Civil Rights movement in 1961. In 1965, he started the Vietnam Committee at Columbia University; in 1967

he co-authored the first Students for a Democratic Society pamphlet naming the system "imperialism"; and he was active in the Columbia strike of 1968. He went on to spend a total of 10 years underground, building a clandestine resistance.

David has been imprisoned in New York State since 10/20/81, when a unit of the Black Liberation Army along with allied white revolutionaries tried to get funds for the struggle by robbing a Brinks truck. This resulted in a shoot-out in which a Brinks guard and two cop were killed. David is serving a sentence of 75 years (minimum) to life under New York State's "felony murder" law, whereby all participants in a robbery, even if they are unarmed and non-shooters, are equally responsible for all deaths that occur. While in prison, David has been a pioneer for peer education on AIDS and has continued to write and advocate against oppression. He's been involved with the annual *Certain Days: Freedom for Political Prisoners* calendar since 2001 and has written two books– *No Surrender* and *Love and Struggle*. *More information: bit.do/DavidGilbert*

**Jaan Laaman #10372-016**
USP McCreary
Post Office Box 3000
Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635

*Birthday: March 21*

Jaan was raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts and Buffalo, New York. His family immigrated to the United States from Estonia when he was a child. He is currently serving a 53 year prison sentence for his role in the bombings of United States government buildings while a member of the United Freedom Front, an American leftist group which robbed banks, bombed buildings, and attacked cops in the 1980s. In the 1960s, Jaan worked with Students for a Democratic Society, a community organization that advocated against the Vietnam War and racism. He facilitated youth development in the Black Panther Party and the Puerto Rican Young Lords. In 1972 he was arrested and charged with bombing a Richard Nixon reelection headquarters and a police station in New Hampshire. Jaan was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released in 1978. A year later, he and Kazi Toure helped to organize the Amandla Festival of Unity, which featured Bob Marley, to support an end to apartheid in South Africa. In 1984, he was captured with several other members of the United Freedom Front, referred to as the Ohio 7. While originally charged with seditious conspiracy, Jaan was eventually found guilty of five bombings, one attempted bombing, and criminal conspiracy, and sentenced to 53 years in prison.

**Xinachtli* #255735**
James V. Allred Unit
2101 FM 369 North
Iowa Park, Texas 76367
**Address envelope to Alvaro Hernández.*

*Birthday: May 12*
Xinachtli (Nahuatl, meaning "seed") is a community organizer from Texas. Police informants were used to monitor Xinachtli's organizing activities in the barrio. They were told Xinachtli was "typing legal papers," "had many books" and was working on police brutality cases in Alpine.

The police knew of Xinachtli's history of community-based organizing and his legal skills. Xinachtli was recognized nationally and internationally as the national coordinator of the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, which led the struggle to free Mexican national Aldape Guerra from Texas' death row after being framed by Houston police for allegedly killing a cop. Xinachtli's human rights work was recognized in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico and other countries. He was sentenced in Odessa, Texas on June 2-9, 1997 to 50 years in prison for defending himself by disarming a police officer drawing a weapon on him. The trial evidence clearly showed Xinachtli was the victim of witch hunts and a police-orchestrated conspiracy to frame or eliminate him.
*More information: freealvaro.net*

## ANTI-POLICE

**Andrew Mickel V77400**
San Quentin State Prison
San Quentin, California 94974

*Birthday: March 13*

On November 19, 2002, Andy Mickel shot and killed a cop from Red Bluff, California. There were no witnesses to the killing, and the crime would have gone unsolved had there not been Internet postings about the crime six days later. The postings read, "Hello Everyone, my name's Andy. I killed a Police Officer in Red Bluff, California in a motion to bring attention to, and halt, the police-state tactics that have come to be used throughout our country." In April 2005, Mickel was convicted of one count of first-degree murder. He was subsequently sentenced to death, and is being held on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

**Reverend Joy Powell #07-G-0632**
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility
Post Office Box 1000
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2499

*Birthday: March 5*
Rev. Joy Powell was warned by the Rochester Police department that she was a target because of her speaking out against corruption. An all white jury tried her; the state provided no evidence and no eyewitnesses. Rev. Joy was not allowed to discuss her activism or say that she was a pastor. Furthermore, Judge Francis Affronti promised he was going to give her a harsh sentence because he did not like her. She was convicted and given 16 years and seven years concurrent. *More information: freejoypowell.org*

## KINGS BAY PLOWSHARES

Seven Catholic plowshares activists entered Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St. Mary's, Georgia on April 4th, 2018. They went to make real the prophet Isaiah's command to "beat swords into plowshares".

The seven chose to act on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who devoted his life to addressing what he called the "triple evils of militarism, racism, and materialism." Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, the seven attempted to convert weapons of mass destruction. In October, 2019, the seven were convicted of all four charges and are expected to receive sentences of up to 20 years each. *More information: kingsbayplowshares7.org*

**NOTE:** *Stephen can only receive plain white postcards while at Glynn County Detention Center*

**Stephen Kelly #015634**
Glynn County Detention Center
100 Sulphur Springs Road
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
*Birthday: June 12*

## VIRGIN ISLAND 3

The “Virgin Island 3” are a group of activists accused of murdering eight people in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The murders took place during a turbulent period of rebellion on the Islands. During the 1970’s, as with much of the world, a movement to resist colonial rule began to grow in the U.S. occupied Virgin Islands. From 1971 to 1973, there was a small scale Mau Mau rebellion taking place on the islands. This activity was down-played by the media, for fear it would damage the tourist industry, which the island’s survival depends on. *More information: virginislands3.yolasite.com*

**Abdul Azeez* #19-1878**
Citrus County Detention Facility
2604 West Woodland Ridge Drive
Lecanto, Florida 34461
**Address envelope to Warren Ballentine.*
*Birthday: January 9*

**Hanif Shabazz Bey* #19-1952**
Citrus County Detention Facility
2604 West Woodland Ridge Drive
Lecanto, Florida 34461
**Address envelope to Beaumont Gereau.*
*Birthday: August 16*

**Malik Smith* #19-1874**
Citrus County Detention Facility
2604 West Woodland Ridge Drive
Lecanto, Florida 34461
**Address envelope to Meral Smith.*
*Birthday: October 8*

## GET INVOLVED

If you're in the NYC area, come to one of our events! We host political prisoner letter-writing dinners every other Tuesday (upcoming events are generally posted on the blog or you can email us to join our announcement list). We also host or co-host several other special events throughout the year, including the annual Running Down the Walls. Contact us if you'd like to be added to our announcement list for upcoming events and important news, or follow us on social media.

Whether or not you live in the area, we encourage you to become an ABCF Warchest contributor. One can do so via mail or paypal (make your payment to nycabc@riseup.net) at a level of $5, $10, or $20 per month or on an ad hoc basis. Contact us for more information about this program and how to contribute.

For those outside of NYC, we also are available to answer questions and generally support people in starting a prisoner support organization or ABC chapter in your area.

## WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication—something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

With that in mind, avoid feeling intimidated, especially about writing to someone you do not know. And if possible try and be a consistent pen pal.

### What to Write

For many, the first line of the first letter is difficult to write—there is uncertainty and intimidation that come with it. Never fret, it's just a letter.

For the first letter, it's best to offer an introduction, how you heard about the prisoner, a little about yourself. Tell stories, write about anything you are passionate about--movement work and community work are great topics until you have a sense of the prisoner's interests outside of political organizing.

And what we hear from prisoners time and time again is to include detail. Prison is so total that the details of life on the outside become distant memories. Smells, textures, sounds of the street all get grayed out behind bars. That's not to say that you should pen a stream-of-consciousness novel.

For things you should and should not remember when writing to folks, read "Guidelines."

## Guidelines

You cannot enclose glitter or write with glittery gel pens or puff paint pens. Some prisons do not allow cards or letters that include permanent marker, crayon, or colored pencils and it is best to check with the prisoner beforehand. That said, it is usually best to write in standard pencil or non-gel pen in blue or black ink.

You cannot include articles or anything else torn out of a newspaper or magazine. However, you can print that same article from the internet or photocopy it and write your letter on the other side.

You cannot include polaroid pictures (though these days, that's not much of an issue), but you can include regular photographs. Some prisoners are limited to the number of photos they can have at any given time, so again, check with the prisoner before sending a stack of photos.

If mailing more than a letter, clearly write the contents of the envelope/package. Label it "CONTENTS" and include a full list.

A couple of technical details—make sure you include your return address inside the letter as well as on the envelope. It's common for prisoners to receive letters without the envelope. Make sure to paginate—number each page, such as 1 of 3, 2 of 3, et cetera. This insures that if pages of your letter don't make it to the prisoner, they will know it.

Be careful about making promises and only commit to what you are certain you can do. This should go without saying, but it's not a good idea to make commitments to someone you don't have a relationship with. If you can't maintain a correspondence, let them know up front. Conversely, if you want to maintain an ongoing correspondence, let them know that as well.

If you are writing to someone who is pre-trial, don't ask questions about their case. Discussing what a prisoner is alleged to have done can easily come back to haunt them during their trial or negotiations leading up to it.

Don't valorize the person you are writing. Keep in mind that these are folks coming from the same movements and communities that you are. They aren't looking for adoration, but rather to maintain correspondence.

Finally, do not write anything you wouldn't want Fox News, a cop, or a judge to see. Assume that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are reading your letter. On a related note, this advice goes for any snail mail, e-mail, texting, messaging, or talking that takes place in known activist spaces or homes. This is not legal advice, just basic movement survival common sense (to review, read "Staying Safe").

## STAYING SAFE

You never have to, and it is never a good idea to talk to police, FBI, ICE, or any other law enforcement agent or investigator. Other than providing your name and address to a police officer who is investigating a crime, you never have to talk. You will not outsmart them by talking or sound less suspicious by talking or make things easier for yourself by talking. Anything you say will be used against you and others. If they catch you in a lie or inconsistency they can charge you with a separate crime.

Say: I have nothing to say to you OR I need a lawyer present to continue this conversation. If they come to your home, workplace, or school, ask them for a business card and tell them your attorney will be in contact with them.

The FBI may threaten you with a grand-jury subpoena for not talking. It doesn't matter because they were probably going to subpoena you anyway and you weren't going to talk anyway. If you receive a grand jury subpoena you should immediately contact a lawyer and let others in your community know. People can be held for up to six months for refusing to talk to grand juries. Even so, for our own survival, it is imperative that we take that risk and do not participate in grand juries as they are used to indict political prisoners and prisoners of war.

In the federal legal system, the grand jury is used to decide whether someone should be charged ("indicted") for a serious crime. The grand jury hears evidence presented by the prosecutor: the U.S. Attorney. The grand jury uses subpoenas to gather this evidence. It can subpoena documents, physical evidence, and witnesses to testify. The "special" federal grand jury, created in 1970, can be used to investigate "possible" organized

criminal activity rather than a specific crime.

Recently, there have been more than one active grand jury in new york city. There are also more than likely informants and agent provocateurs infiltrating the anarchist community here.

It is imperative that we continue our work as anarchists including the support of political prisoners and prisoners of war towards the abolition of the state, of capitalism, and of all oppression. It is also imperative that we do so in a way that is smart, strategic, and sustainable.

## NYC Anarchist Black Cross

NYC Anarchist Black Cross is a collective focused on supporting US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war and opposing state repression against revolutionary social justice movements. We are a Support Group of the continental Anarchist Black Cross Federation.

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